

Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association

Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association—Productivity and Quality



Upcoming events:

- August 9—Mississippi Beef Quality Assurance Training, Oxford, MS
- August 27—Mississippi Beef Quality Assurance Training, Perry County
- August 28—Gulf Coast Beef Education Alliance, Beef Nutrition Series - Winter Pasture Utilization and Fertility Planning, 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M., distance education sites throughout MS, AL, LA and FL
- September 14-15—Master Stockman Program, MSU Beef and Horse Units, Mississippi State, MS
- September 25—Gulf Coast Beef Education Alliance, Beef Nutrition Series - Weaned Calf Nutrition and Economics, 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M., distance education sites throughout MS, AL, LA and FL

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MBCIA Bull Sale Nomination Deadline—September 1, 2007

The nomination deadline for the 2007 Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association Fall Bull Sale is rapidly approaching. Producers considering nominating bulls to the sale are encouraged to contact sale management in August. The Mississippi Fall BCIA Bull Sale program encourages production and identification of genetically superior bulls by purebred breeders and purchase and use of these bulls by commercial producers. The 2007 sale is scheduled for Thursday, November 8, 2007 at 12:00 noon at the Hinds Community College Sales Facility in Raymond, Mississippi. Mississippi beef breeders are encouraged to nominate quality bulls that meet all the requirements for the sale.

The Rules and Regulations for the BCIA Bull Sale along with a nomination form and current bull sale information are posted on the BCIA website at msucare.com/livestock/beef/mbcia/bcia_bullsale.html and are available through county Extension offices across Mississippi. One change worth noting this year is that a minimum adjusted 365-day yearling weight of 900 pounds will be required for bulls to meet 2007 BCIA Fall Bull Sale eligibility.

With the effectiveness of distance bidding sites being proven at last year's sale, the annual sale will once again be broadcast live from the Raymond sale site over the Extension distance education system to interactive bidding sites in the Panola County Extension office in Batesville, MS and the North MS Research and Extension Center in Verona, MS. Producers at the remote sites will have the opportunity to view video of the bulls immediately prior to the sale, view and hear the sale live, and bid on bulls from Batesville and Verona. Look for sale advertisements in the future with more details on this.

If you are interested in consigning bulls to this sale, please complete the nomination form and return it to Box 9815, Mississippi State, MS 39762 no later than September 1, 2007. Be sure to include the nomination fee, a signed registration certificate, actual birth weight, and adjusted weaning and yearling weights and ratios for each bull. If you have any questions about the sale, please call your local Extension Service office or contact Jane Parish in the MSU Animal and Dairy Sciences Department at 662-325-7466 or jparish@ext.msstate.edu.

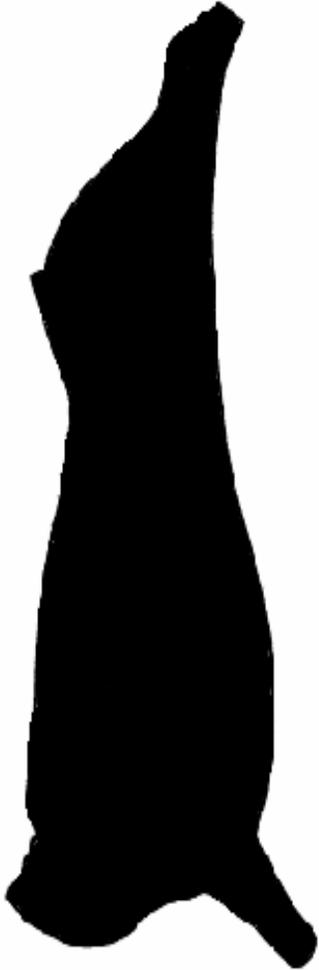
Downer Rule Takes Effect October 1

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced July 12, 2007 a permanent prohibition on the slaughter of cattle that are unable to stand or walk ("downer" cattle) when presented for pre-slaughter inspection.

Under the rule, cattle that are injured after they pass pre-slaughter inspection will be reevaluated to determine their eligibility for slaughter.

The rule published in the July 13 Federal Register makes permanent what had been an interim final rule prohibiting slaughter of non-ambulatory cattle in the United States. The final rule becomes effective Oct. 1, 2007.

"This final rule further strengthens our public health controls at slaughter plants across the United States," said USDA Under Secretary for Food Safety Dr. Richard Raymond.



Mississippi Farm to Feedlot

The long-running Mississippi Farm to Feedlot program is coordinated by the Mississippi State University Extension Service and sponsored by the Mississippi Cattlemen's Association and Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association. The goals of this program are to provide beef producers the opportunity to explore alternative marketing options for their feeder and stocker calves and to evaluate production and carcass information for cattle produced in Mississippi.

Some changes have recently been made such that the program now provides year-round marketing opportunities, risk management education and implementation, source and age verification options, and a choice of multiple feeders. Having the option to choose one of multiple feeders provides the flexibility to match calves to feedlots and value-based marketing systems that will most likely increase revenue beyond conventional marketing strategies.

Among the current feeder choices is the Tri-County Steer Carcass Futurity Cooperative (TCSCF; www.tcscf.com). The TCSCF is comprised of a group of farmer-feeders in southwest Iowa that have been individually approved by the program's board of directors. The program is coordinated by Darrell Busby, Livestock Field Specialist for Iowa

State University Extension. Calves marketed through the TCSCF will be sold on a Grade and Yield basis for determining individual animal value. Proceeds to consigners will be calculated as individual animal value less all related expenses including interest.

The Farm to Feedlot program does not exclusively endorse the TCSCF. In fact, depending on the genetics of individual producers' cattle, other feeders with different marketing choices might be a more suitable option. If an individual or group would like to track the performance and carcass data for calves sold directly to the feedlot, arrangements can be made to accommodate that. This would be a good option for those who have never retained ownership of their cattle and do not know their genetic potential for yield or carcass quality.

For further information, please visit the Farm to Feedlot website at:

msucares.com/livestock/beef/ftf/index.html

To consign cattle to the program, contact:

Justin Rhinehart
Animal and Dairy Sciences
Box 9815, MS State, MS 39762
662-325-7465
jrhinehart@ads.msstate.edu

Animal Disease and Disaster Preparedness

The Mississippi Animal Disease and Disaster Preparedness Program, coordinated by the state's Board of Animal Health, aims to safeguard the state's animals against the danger of a contagious disease outbreak or in the event of a natural disaster. To accomplish this formidable task, it is imperative that the location of producers and their herds be available to animal health officials.

Registering in this program will assist state officials in controlling an outbreak of diseases, such as Foot and Mouth Disease, Bovine TB, or Johne's Disease. To be effective, this program requires maximum participation. Please register to protect yourself and as a courtesy to your neighbors.

How The Program Works:

- **Fill out a producer registration form**
 - * These can be found at your local Extension Office or by contacting the Board of Animal Health.
- **Receive your unique producer registration conformation in the mail**
 - * A randomly generated number will be assigned to your contact information.
 - * The information will be stored in a database at the Mississippi Board of Animal Health and accessed only in the case of an emergency.
- **Enrollment is free to Mississippi livestock producers**

"Enrollment is free to Mississippi livestock producers."

NCBA President Visits Mississippi

John Queen, the current National Cattlemen's Beef Association president, visited Mississippi beef producers and industry representatives last month. Mr. Queen is a cattleman from Wanyesville, NC and has been involved in many facets of beef production from cow-calf and backgrounding to finishing. He has also been involved in live-stock marketing as a stockyard owner.

One of the highlights of the tour was a dinner at the West Point Civic Center. Melanie Sojourner, NCBA Field Representative for Region II, began the evening by speaking about the importance of encouraging young people to become involved in the beef industry. She stressed her sincere desire to remain in the Southeast and talked about how much she enjoys representing the Cattlemen Associations of this region.

Much of Mr. Queen's talk addressed federal legislative issues that will have a direct, and lasting, impact on beef producers. One such issue is the Federal Death Tax. Temporary repeal has alleviated some of the problem but, if the repeal is not made permanent, the Death Tax will continue to force producers to sell their business when the owner dies. Mr. Queen gave a very moving personal example of how the Death Tax forced his family to sell prime farm land that his aunt had left them.

Another important issue that was addressed in Mr. Queen's speech was the NCBA's opposition to inclusion of animal waste products in the regulations set forth by "Superfund" laws. Superfund laws were initiated by two legislative acts in the 1980's to force reporting and clean-up of industrial toxic waste spills. If these laws are broadened to include animal agricultural waste, farmers and rancher who use manure as a

fertilizer could be forced to pay for removal of any residues from the soil. A financial burden that few producers could bear.

Of particular concern was the Country-of-Origin Labeling (COOL) laws that will go into effect next year. The NCBA worked hard to make sure that the burden of this program will not fall on the beef producers. Compromises were reached that will limit the amount of additional record keeping. At the time the law goes into effect, live cattle will be grandfathered in so that the label on products from them will state that they are a product of the United States. Products from live cattle imported after that date will be labeled as a product of the United States and the country from which it was imported.

Under the COOL laws, blended ground beef will be labeled as a product of the United States and one or more of a list of countries that export beef to the US. Poultry products, restaurants and food services are exempt from mandatory labeling.

Some of the same topics were addressed when Mr. Queen met with a smaller group at the Lee County Agri-

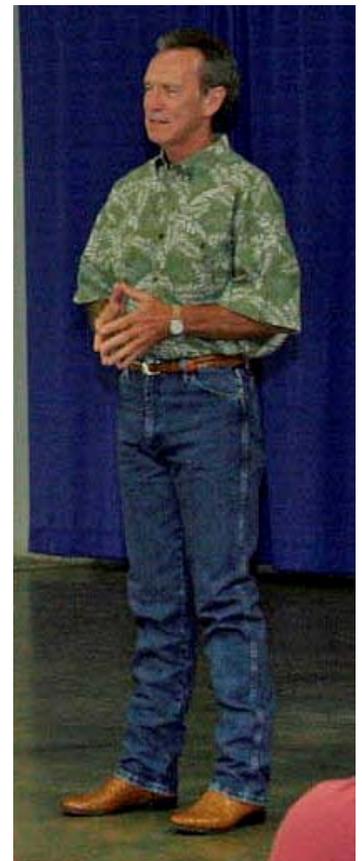
Center in Verona. In this forum, he expressed the fact that NCBA supports the concept of a minor role for the federal government in deciding animal agriculture policy. He stated that "beef producers should be free to market their product when they chose, how they chose, to whom they chose and at the price they chose." He also reiterated the fact that the NCBA is "consumer driven but producer controlled."

Of specific importance, NCBA President John Queen was proud of the fact that he had dealt with Mississippi cattle producers in the past. He was sincere in expressing that he was glad to be in Mississippi.

"...Beef producers should be free to market their product when they chose, how they chose, to whom they chose and at the price they chose."



John Queen, NCBA President, met with beef producers and MSU faculty in Verona. (Photo provided by the Mississippi Cattlemen's Association)



John Queen expressed that he was proud to represent the Southeast and sincerely glad to be in Mississippi.

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Association—Productivity and Quality

Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Assn.
Box 9815
Mississippi State, MS 39762

Phones: 662-325-7466, 662-325-7465
Fax: 662-325-8873

Email: jparish@ads.msstate.edu
jrhinehart@ads.msstate.edu



Send questions or comments to Jane Parish or
Justin Rhinehart, Extension Beef Specialists,
Mississippi State University
Extension Service



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the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex,
sexual orientation or group affiliation, age, disability,
or veteran status.

Visit MBCIA online at
[http://msucares.com/
livestock/beef/mbcia/](http://msucares.com/livestock/beef/mbcia/)

MBCIA Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

County: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

(Check one) Seedstock: Commercial:

Cattle breed(s): _____

Completed applications and \$5 annual dues payable to
Mississippi BCIA should be mailed to:

Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association
Jane Parish, Extension Beef Specialist
Box 9815, Mississippi State, MS 39762

BCIA Genetic Profit Tips – August 2007

Body Condition Scoring

Body condition scores are numerical values that reflect fatness or condition of the beef cow. Scores are subjectively assigned, ranging from 1 = Severely emaciated to 9 = Very obese. Body condition scoring is generally done by visual appraisal, but palpation of the animal's condition may be beneficial when it has a thick hair coat. Areas generally considered include the last half of the ribs, edge of the loin, spinous processes, and the hooks and pins, as well as tail-head, brisket, and shoulder area.

It is generally accepted that a change of one body condition score on this system equates to 75 to 80 lb. change in body weight on a 1050 to 1100 lb. cow.

Condition BCS Descriptions

Thin

BCS 1 Emaciated – Cow is extremely emaciated with no palpable fat detectable over spinous processes, transverse processes, hip bones, or ribs. Tail-head and ribs project quite prominently.

BCS 2 Poor – Cow still appears somewhat emaciated but tail-head and ribs are less prominent. Individual spinous processes are still rather sharp to the touch, but some tissue cover over dorsal portion of ribs.

BCS 3 Thin – Ribs are still individually identifiable but not quite as sharp to the touch. There is obvious palpable fat along spine and over tail-head with some tissue cover over dorsal portion of ribs.

Borderline

BCS 4 Borderline – Individual ribs are no longer visually obvious. The spinous processes can be identified individually on palpation but feel rounded rather than sharp. Some fat cover over ribs, transverse processes, and hip bones.

Optimum/moderate

BCS 5 Moderate – Cow has generally good overall appearance. On palpation, fat cover over ribs feels spongy and areas on either side of tail-head now have palpable fat cover.

BCS 6 High moderate – Firm pressure now needs to be applied to feel spinous processes. A high degree of fat is palpable over ribs and around tail-head.

Fat

BCS 7 Good – Cow appears fleshy and obviously carries considerable fat. Very spongy fat cover over ribs and around tail-head. In fact, “rounds” or “pones” beginning to be obvious. Some fat around vulva and in crotch.

BCS 8 Fat – Cow very fleshy and over-conditioned. Spinous processes almost impossible to palpate. Cow has large fat deposits over ribs and around tail-head, and below vulva. “Rounds” or “pones” are obvious.

BCS 9 Extremely fat – Cow obviously extremely wasty and patchy and looks blocky. Tail-head and hips buried in fatty tissue and “rounds” or “pones” of fat are protruding. Bone structure no longer visible and barely palpable. Animal's mobility might even be impaired by large fatty deposits.

Source: BIF. 2002. Guidelines for Uniform Beef Improvement Programs, 8th ed.